



## Projet d'appui au Parlement Haitien (PAPH) Support to Parliament

### Background:

Any Haitian legislatures have ever been fully independent, since 1816 even though Parliamentarians were given broad legislative and oversight powers.

### Objectives:

The overall objective is to build competent leadership with a sense of national vision and unity. PAPH aims at strengthening the Parliament's legislature and oversight functions, improving the legislative skills of members and staff, and developing internal administration and management. PAPH also addresses critical issues such as the need for political inclusiveness, negotiation and power-sharing.

### Activities:

#### 1. Support Haitian Parliament in conducting a new member orientation program

Most of this legislature's members are new to the Institution. Therefore, the focus of this activity is to provide guidance to the new parliamentarians on their role within the broader government structure in order to enable them to exercise the full extent of their capacity. As a result, a comprehensive program of orientation was put in place so that the new members are exposed to the necessary information, knowledge and skills to be effective legislators.

#### 2. Design Legislative Strengthening Strategy and Program Activities Utilizing Participatory Design Processes

The project utilizes participatory design and planning processes in close partnership with the Haitian Parliament to develop legislative strengthening strategies, design assistance activities and define sound tactical approaches and performance measures.

#### 3. Strengthen Institutional Capacity of the Parliament

The focus of USAID's legislative assistance efforts is strengthening the Parliament's legislative and oversight functions, improving the legislative skills of members and staff, and developing the internal administration and management of the Parliament.

#### 4. Strengthen Accountability and Transparency in the Legislative Process

Haitians who are not directly involved or closely following the legislative process, see very little benefits or interests to its functioning.. US assistance is helping to increase public interest and participation in the legislative process.

## **5. Facilities Improvement, Repair and Furnishings**

Due to its close collaboration with members from both houses of Parliament, PAPH has been able to identify several needs of this facility. The project provided computer equipment, and office furniture. Most recently, USAID has started a project along with Canada to explore the idea of restoring two buildings to address the needs for office space for senators and deputies.

### **USAID support:**

A 6 million USD financed 3 years (2006-2009) project

### **Implementer:**

State University of New York (SUNY)

### **Objectives:**

Institutional Strengthening (Support to Parliament)

### **Anticipated Results Over Life of Program:**

All activities undertaken in this program are directly contributing to enhancing responsive governance by elected officials. These officials face the daunting task of bringing Haiti back from instability and autocratic rule to a stable inclusive government committed to democratic reform and broad based economic recovery. At the end of this program, (3 years), parliamentarians will be able to quickly establish their credentials, through efficient and visible operations, and draft effective legislation and be effective policy makers. The USG assistance will help improve their popular legitimacy and provide them with the political space and stability needed to undertake these difficult tasks, including long term inclusive development planning and possible constitutional reform.

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